



## ORANGE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

### Coroner Division

#### Quarter 3 Comparison Report

Report time frame: July - Sept. 2022

(comparing to: July - Sept. 2021)

Total cases

**778**

(-1% from 808 in 2021)

Q3 Total include 14 cases pending and 20 cases undetermined

Accident

**365**

(-7%)

Homicide

**20**

(-33%)

Suicide

**92**

(+30%)

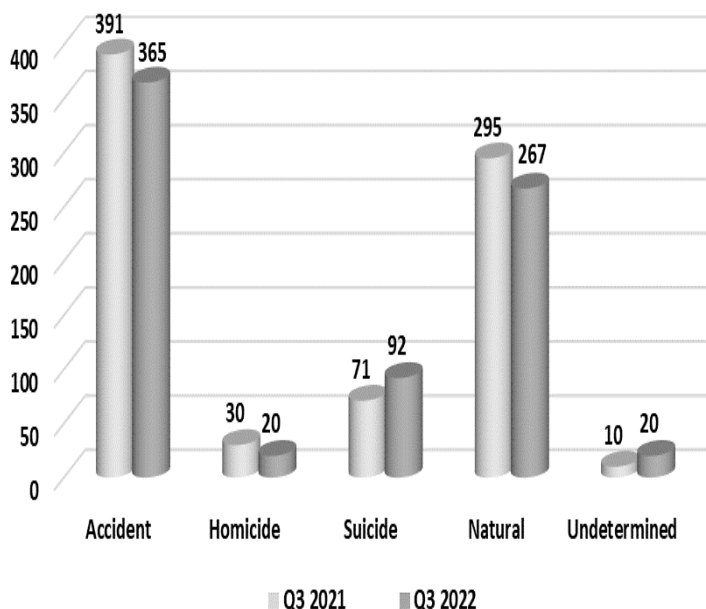
Natural

**267**

(-9%)

## MANNER OF DEATH

Comparing Quarter 3 of 2021 to 2022, accidental deaths have decreased by 7%, homicides were 33% lower, suicides were the 30% higher, and natural deaths falling under the jurisdiction of the Coroner decreased by 9%.



### Accidents

Unintentional prescription and illicit drug related deaths remained the same in 2022 at 58% of all accidental deaths when compared to the same time frame (58%) in 2021. Falls accounted for 18% while traffic related deaths were at 16%.



Unplanned deaths due to illicit or prescription drugs and/or ethanol toxicity decreased by 8% in the third quarter of 2022 compared to the same time period in 2021 (233 to 214)

Methamphetamine appeared in 53% of all overdoses cases which was the same as the third quarter of 2021.

Fentanyl related deaths showed a 11% decrease. (173 to 154)



Falls increased 7% in 2022 compared to 2021 (55 to 59) which makes them the third highest of all accidental death cases. Same level falls were most prevalent at 61% of all falls in 2022 but down from 73% in 2021.



Vehicular traffic related deaths decreased in comparison to 2021 (67 to 65) with Auto vs. Auto increasing 30%.

Pedestrian deaths accounted for 35% of all vehicular deaths in Quarter 3 of 2022 while in 2021 they were at 39%.

Motorcycle related deaths saw an 42% decrease. (12 to 7)

### Drowning Deaths

**-16%**

DECREASE (19 to 16)

31% of the cases involved a pool.

### Suicides

In Quarter 3 of 2021 there was an increase of 30% in suicides compared to Quarter 3 of 2021.

During this time frame asphyxia was the leading method at 43% followed by gunshot at 25%

The work of the Coroner Division is largely based on Government Code § 27491, which states that all unnatural deaths including homicides, suicides, accidents, and deaths in custody are under the coroner/medical examiner's jurisdiction to investigate. Also falling under our jurisdiction are infectious diseases reaching epidemic proportions, deaths in state or local institutions, and deaths believed to be natural but that occurred suddenly and unexpectedly where the decedent had not seen their health care provider in the last 20 days of life. Note: All deaths that fall under § 27491 are also subject to whether the facts indicate the death occurred under natural circumstances and the physician of record has sufficient knowledge to reasonably state the cause of death occurred under natural circumstance. Therefore, not every death that falls under one of these categories will be investigated by the Coroner's Office. See Govt Code § 27491.

\*Due to some cases still under investigation within the quarter, manner of death counts and associated insights may adjust slightly as those cases are closed